

SECRET

COURIER

EGL-A-20026

: Chief of Station, Germany

20 July 1956

: Chief of Base, Pullach

INFO, EE, BONN, FOB

- Operational/CART/LCIIMPROVE

- CARETINA

REF : BONN-4369

1. Reference cable gave the high lights of a conversation between CABANJO and @ FRIESEN which undersigned overheard in the offices of the Security Group on 18 July 1956. The reasons for the vagueness of this report are that I was supposedly reading a document at the time of the conversation and that the two principals spoke in low tones.

2. CABANJO mentioned that he had fairly recently talked to CARETINA. It was apparent to CABANJO that CARETINA was shopping around for a future job and that in the course of his travels he had approached practically all German agencies which might be interested in his tale. CABANJO commented that CARETINA was obviously not going to tell his story in return for a small daily remuneration; rather, he was shooting for a large cash settlement in return for which he would tell the bulk of his experiences. CABANJO also said that another qualification which had been laid down by CARETINA was the procurement of a satisfactory job since the Security Group could not use him. CABANJO had not made any attempt to initiate a thoroughgoing debriefing. In an aside, CABANJO remarked that because of his past CARETINA was foolish to believe that he would ever be able to rise to a responsible high position in Germany. CABANJO continued that one of his subordinates, Heinz (lnu), was still in touch with CARETINA.

3. The matter of the Bundeskriminalamt in Wiesbaden was mentioned in the following context. CABANJO said that he knew that CARETINA had talked to someone in Wiesbaden and that the Bundeskriminalamt was planning to debrief

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him at some length if a satisfactory arrangement could be arrived at. Once again, however, CARETINA had stressed that he would not reveal anything but tantalizing tidbits unless there was something worthwhile in it for him.

4. At this point a surprising turn of the conversation took place. CABANJO wondered audibly whether a large number of former Abwehr personnel had not been returned from the Soviet Union with definite intelligence missions. He cited the example of the former deputy chief of the Gestapo, Fritz PANZINGER, a former SS Oberfuhrer, who is known to have returned with a mission against UPSWING. (Friedrich PANZINGER, born 1 February 1903 in Munich; residing Munich 25, Hoelderlinstrasse 10/1; formerly at Berlin SW 69, Yorckstrasse 72; was arrested on 3 October 1946 in Linz, Austria, probably for espionage. Upon his return from the Soviet Union, he was put on UPSWING's reserve list. An article appeared in the SCHWERINER VOLKSZEITUNG on 17 February 1956 indicating that PANZINGER was in touch with UPSWING. Erfassungsbogen E/20/55/22; see also EGLA-18139, 8 March 1956.) At this point, @ FRIESEN blurted, "Oh, you can just like CARETINA." The conversation ended abruptly there.

5. We have had no previous indication that CARETINA definitely had an espionage mission directed against UPSWING or any other CE or positive target. Rather, to the contrary, our impression has been that UPSWING, while interested in talking to CARETINA, has been blocked by its inability to find a suitable slot and because of its agreement with CAVATA that the latter talk to CARETINA first. It is conceivable that @ FRIESEN's ejaculation was mere speculation. Unfortunately, because of the current status of CARETINA, we do not feel that we can question @ FRIESEN closely on this point, unless KUBARK decides that in the interests of POB's relationship with various members of UPSWING who have informally discussed the CARETINA case with us, it would be better to flatly tell UPSWING that we propose to debrief CARETINA at some length.

6. @ FRIESEN also mentioned casually at a different time during the same trip that CARETINA's former secretary was now in Munich.

7. During the course of the conversation at the Security Group, two further incidental but interesting matters were discussed. One was that CABANJO stated that CARETINA received an offer of a lump-sum payment if he would write a book. CABANJO believed that this had been from the "Americans." Secondly, CABANJO related that KENT of Rote Kapelle fame was now working as a trusty with some supervisory duties in a prison camp in the Soviet Union, presumably Vorkuta.

8. The above is reported as an interesting, if puzzling, matter. We shall take no further action unless instructed to do so by Washington or Frankfurt.

Approved by:

SECRET